

Maryland Weekly Influenza Surveillance Activity Report

A summary of influenza surveillance indicators reported to DHMH for the week ending December 22, 2012

Prepared by the Office of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response
Prevention and Health Promotion Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

SUMMARY

During the week ending December 22, 2012, influenza-like illness (ILI) intensity in Maryland was **MODERATE** with **WIDESPREAD** geographic spread of influenza. Most influenza activity indicators are higher than previous seasons on this date.

[Click here to visit our influenza surveillance web page](#)

ILI Intensity Levels

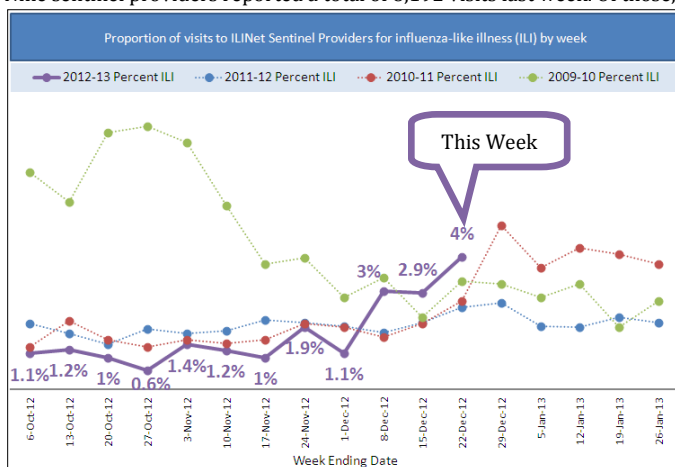
Minimal
Low
✓ Moderate
High

Influenza Geographic Spread

No Activity
Sporadic
Local
Regional
✓ Widespread

ILINet Sentinel Providers

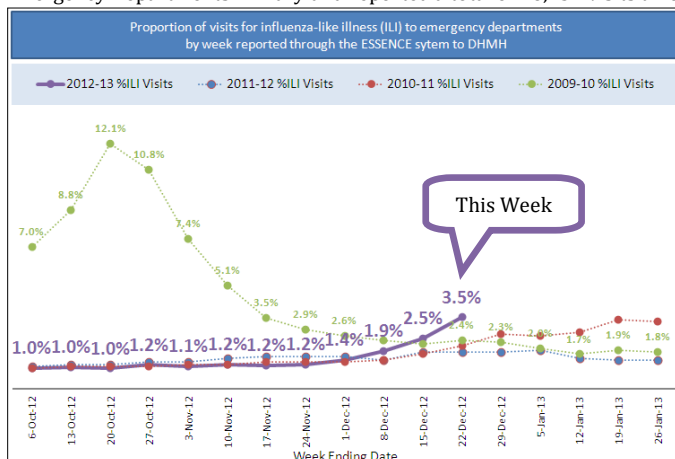
Nine sentinel providers reported a total of 8,192 visits last week. Of those, 331 (4%) were visits for ILI. This is **above** the Maryland baseline of 2.9%.



ILI Visits To Sentinel Providers By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	69 (21%)	53 (24%)	431 (26%)
Age 5-24	141 (43%)	89 (40%)	696 (42%)
Age 25-49	88 (27%)	53 (24%)	395 (24%)
Age 50-64	22 (7%)	15 (7%)	100 (6%)
Age ≥ 65	11 (3%)	9 (4%)	50 (3%)
Total ILI Visits	331 (100%)	219 (100%)	1,672 (100%)

Visits to Emergency Departments for ILI

Emergency Departments in Maryland reported a total of 46,757 visits through the [ESSENCE surveillance system](#). Of those, 1,647 (3.5%) were visits for ILI.



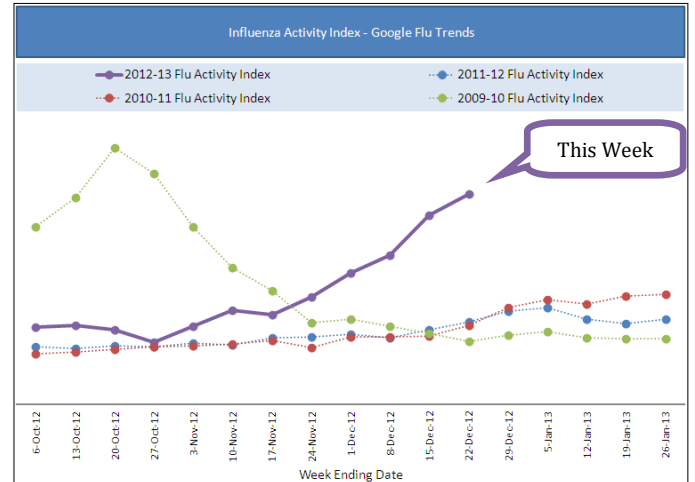
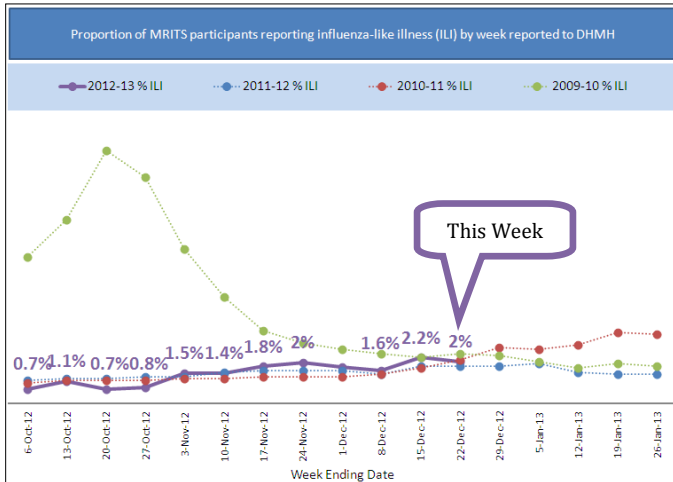
ILI Visits To Emergency Departments By Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	497 (30%)	376 (33%)	2,658 (32%)
Age 5-24	558 (34%)	372 (33%)	2,510 (30%)
Age 25-49	407 (25%)	275 (24%)	2,205 (26%)
Age 50-64	115 (7%)	78 (7%)	637 (8%)
Age ≥ 65	68 (4%)	35 (3%)	322 (4%)
Total ILI Visits	1,645 (100%)	1,136 (100%)	8,332 (100%)

Neighboring states' influenza information:

Delaware <http://dhss.delaware.gov/dph/epi/influenzahome.html>
District of Columbia <http://doh.dc.gov/service/influenza>
Pennsylvania [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_\(flu\)/14161](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/influenza_(flu)/14161)
Virginia <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/Influenza/>
West Virginia <http://dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/flu/Pages/fluSurveillance.aspx>

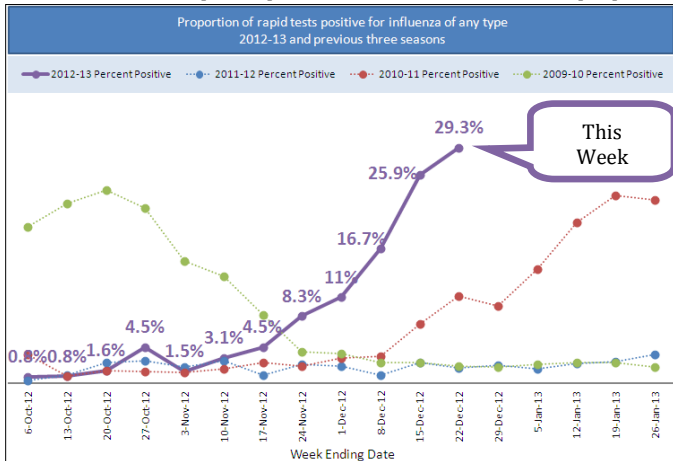
Community-based Influenza Surveillance (MRITS and Google Flu Trends)

A total of 446 responses to the [weekly flu survey](#) (MRITS) were received. Of those, 9 (2%) reported ILI with a cumulative 23 days of regular daily activities lost due to illness. According to [Google Flu Trends](#), influenza activity is now “**high**” in Maryland.

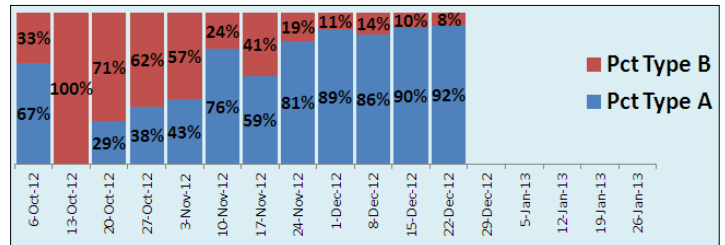


Clinical Laboratory Influenza Testing

Twenty-eight clinical laboratories reported 4,338 rapid influenza tests performed. Of those, 1,269 (29.3%) were positive. Of those testing positive, 1,162 were positive for influenza type A, and 107 were positive for type B. (Rapid influenza tests are not as accurate as PCR tests. Now that the State Laboratories Administration has reported positive PCR tests for influenza, rapid positive tests are counted as lab-confirmed cases for surveillance purposes.)

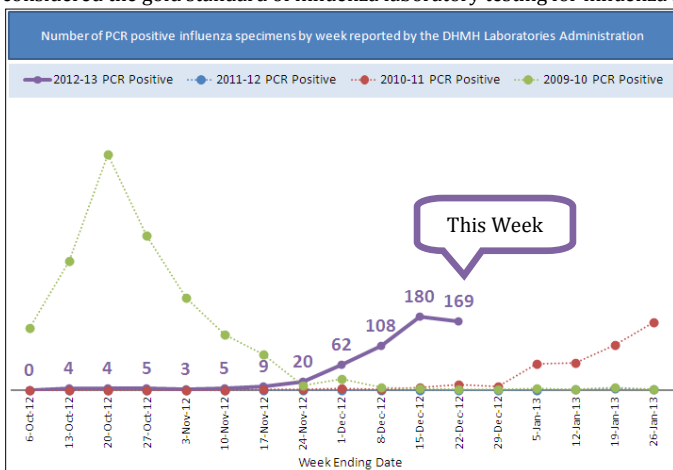


Positive Rapid Flu Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A	1,162 (92%)	574 (90%)	2,096 (89%)
Type B	107 (8%)	65 (10%)	266 (11%)
Total	1,269 (100%)	639 (100%)	2,362 (100%)



State Laboratories Administration Influenza Testing

The DHMH Laboratories Administration performed a total of 221 PCR tests for influenza. One hundred fifty-two of those were positive for influenza type A (H3N2), twelve were positive for type B influenza, and five were positive for influenza type A (H1N1). (Influenza tests performed at the State Laboratory are considered the gold standard of influenza laboratory testing for influenza surveillance purposes.)

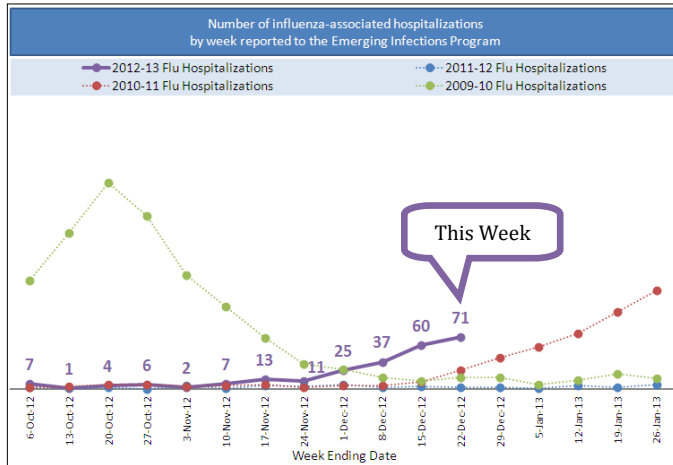


Positive PCR Tests by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Type A (H1)	5 (3%)	1 (1%)	13 (2%)
Type A (H3N2)	152 (90%)	176 (98%)	523 (92%)
Type A (H3N2v)	--	--	--
Type B	12 (7%)	3 (2%)	35 (6%)
Total	169 (100%)	180 (100%)	571 (100%)

Go to <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/flumnd/SitePages/getvaccinated.aspx> and click on your county/city of residence. You will be redirected to your local health department website for local information on where to get your flu vaccine.

Influenza-associated Hospitalizations

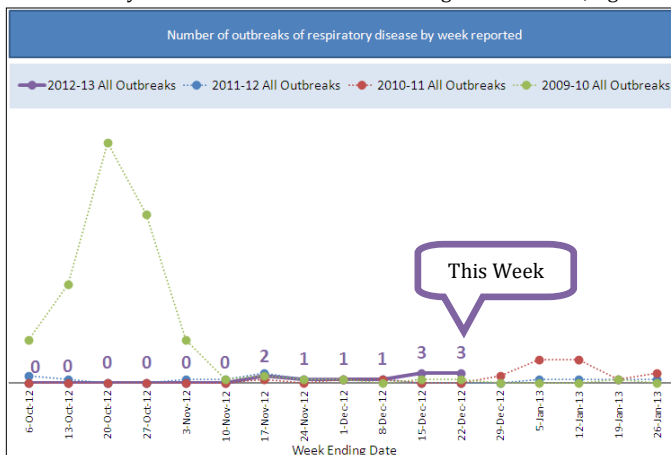
Hospitals in Maryland reported 71 influenza-associated hospitalizations. (A person with an overnight hospital stay along with a positive influenza test of any kind, e.g. rapid test or PCR, is considered an "influenza-associated hospitalization" for purposes of influenza surveillance.)



Influenza-Associated Hospitalizations by Age Group	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Age 0-4	13 (18%)	11 (18%)	47 (19%)
Age 5-17	2 (3%)	5 (8%)	16 (7%)
Age 18-24	15 (21%)	8 (13%)	48 (20%)
Age 25-49	12 (17%)	8 (13%)	45 (18%)
Age 50-64	4 (6%)	3 (5%)	17 (7%)
Age ≥ 65	25 (35%)	25 (42%)	71 (29%)
Total	71 (100%)	60 (100%)	244 (100%)

Outbreaks of Respiratory Disease

Two outbreaks of influenza and one outbreak of pneumonia were reported to DHMH. (Disease outbreaks of any kind are reportable in Maryland. Respiratory outbreaks may be reclassified once a causative agent is detected, e.g. from ILI to influenza.)



Respiratory Outbreaks by Type	This Week Number (%)	Last Week Number (%)	Season Number (%)
Influenza	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	5 (45%)
Influenza-like Illness	--	2 (67%)	3 (27%)
Pneumonia	1 (33%)	--	3 (27%)
Other Respiratory	--	--	--
Total	3 (100%)	3 (100%)	11 (100%)

National Influenza Surveillance (CDC)

During the week ending December 22, 2012, influenza activity increased in the U.S.

- Viral Surveillance:** Of 6,234 specimens tested and reported by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories in week 51, 1,846 (29.6%) were positive for influenza.
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality:** The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was below the epidemic threshold.
- Influenza-Associated Pediatric Deaths:** Eight influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Three were associated with influenza B viruses, 3 were associated with influenza A (H3) viruses, and 2 were associated with influenza A viruses for which the subtype was not determined.
- Outpatient Illness Surveillance:** The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was 4.2%; above the national baseline of 2.2%. Nine of 10 regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels. New York City and 16 states experienced high ILI activity; 8 states experienced moderate ILI activity; 10 states experienced low ILI activity; 14 states experienced minimal ILI activity, and the District of Columbia and 2 states had insufficient data.
- Geographic Spread of Influenza:** Thirty-one states reported widespread geographic influenza activity; 14 states reported regional activity; the District of Columbia and 3 states reported local activity; 2 states reported sporadic activity; Guam reported no influenza activity, and Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did not report.

